

URBAN DISTRICT OF
WALTON & WEYBRIDGE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH
TOGETHER WITH
THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1968

ANNUAL REPORT

Health Department,

Town Hall,

Walton-on-Thames.

Tel : 28844.

July, 1969.

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton and Weybridge Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the health of Walton and Weybridge Urban District for 1968 which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/69.

The year will long be remembered for the serious flooding which occurred in September and affected parts of Hersham, Weybridge and Walton. Following a period of heavy sustained rain on what was already waterlogged ground, the Rivers Mole and Wey overflowed their banks. Many homes were flooded, leading to considerable damage accompanied by distress and suffering. Four emergency rest centres were set up to deal with the homeless.

One gratifying fact to emerge was that there was no loss of life, even though a number of old people were involved. In addition, there were no outbreaks of infectious disease attributable to the floods and I emphasise this point as in such times people's emotions are understandably stirred, consequently leading to odd rumours and allegations. Instructions regarding the boiling of water were only given when sewage contaminated flood water had reached water tap level in some premises.

The whole district responded admirably to the emergency and the services rendered by the Police, Armed Forces, Fire Service, Voluntary Organisations, Council Staff and many willing volunteers were highly commendable. Rescue operations were carried out under hazardous conditions which were further hampered by a breakdown in road and telephone communications.

It should be remembered no flood warning had been given so a state of readiness did not exist. This in itself was a serious omission on the part of those who look after our rivers. A County plan to meet any such future emergency has now been worked out. The Police will be responsible for flood warnings and all communications. Naturally, it is hoped there will be no repetition but we must always be readily prepared.

The estimated mid-year population shows an increase of 690 compared to 970 the previous year. Births exceeded deaths by 205 so that

there was an inward migration of 485, representing a 31 per cent reduction compared to 1967.

After remaining constant for two years the birth-rate has declined slightly but it would be premature to draw any conclusions from this. The death-rate continues to remain well below that for England and Wales.

It is gratifying once again to note a further fall in the death-rate from lung cancer but there is little evidence to indicate that this trend will continue.

Vaccination against Measles commenced in the latter half of the year. It will, of course, be some time before the effectiveness of this campaign can be properly assessed.

During the year Infective Jaundice became notifiable whilst Pneumonia, Erysipelas and Puerperal Pyrexia ceased to be classified as notifiable diseases.

In June a Clinic for the Elderly was opened at the County Clinic, Drill Hall, Molesey Road, Hersham. All old people are free to book an appointment for a complete medical assessment by the Clinic Medical Officer and Health Visitor. A full social history is taken and this is followed by a medical examination which includes blood tests and X-ray of the chest. The findings in each case are reported to the patient's General Practitioner. No actual treatment of any patients is undertaken other than physiotherapy, which is available at the Clinic and which is given only with the General Practitioner's approval. In addition, hearing assessments are made and cases referred for hearing aids where necessary. A chiropodist is also available for those who require this treatment. Transport of patients to and from the Clinic and the Mobile X-ray Unit is carried out by voluntary workers and I should emphasise this is a necessary adjunct to the service. During 1968 seventy-two old people were examined. The physiotherapy is proving an essential part to the service and very much appreciated by the patients themselves. Although malnutrition is now considered to be a greater hazard in the elderly than in the young there is no evidence to show it is a problem in this area. However, it is possible the intake of nutrients in some is only marginally adequate.

1968 saw the publication of the much awaited "Green Paper" on the Health Services. The main aim of the Report is the unification of the three branches of the service and it has led to much useful discussion. However, reorganisation of the health services would, in my opinion, need to be linked with any proposed reorganisation of local government.

The County Health and Welfare Departments were amalgamated during the year and this should lead to a closer working arrangement in these fields.

Looking ahead—Are there any steps that can be taken to improve the general health of the community? The following possibly merit careful consideration:—

1. Government action to make fluoridation of water supplies compulsory.
2. The introduction of bacteriological standards for cream, similar to those applicable to milk.
3. A ban on the addition of antibiotics to animal feeding stuffs.
4. Better voluntary control of animals harbouring salmonella organisms.
5. Regulations to make foot operated control systems for water closets and wash basins compulsory.

I would welcome Mr. Eade, our new Chief Public Health Inspector, who has embarked on his new tasks with enthusiasm and vigour; also Mr. Aston, our new Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector. Once again I have to say farewell—this time to Mr. Harris, our Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, who retired after twenty-one years' service with this Council and to him we wish a long and happy retirement.

I should like to acknowledge the consistent work of the Health Department and particularly during the flood emergency.

Finally, my thanks are gratefully accorded to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and guidance throughout the year.

E. M. HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health:

E. M. HAMILTON, M.B.E., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(also acts as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Chertsey and Deputy Divisional Medical Officer for the North-Western Division, Surrey County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S. A. EADE, D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. H. HARRIS, M.A.P.H.I. (Retired 31.8.68.)

G. W. ASTON, M.A.P.H.I. (From 9.9.68.)

Public Health Inspectors:

A. J. BELL, M.A.P.H.I.

H. R. D. SCOTT, M.A.P.H.I.

J. A. KLEMP, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector:

A. WARNER, M.R.S.H. (From 14.10.68.)

Student Public Health Inspectors:

G. E. PRATT.

J. E. THURGOOD. (From 25.11.68.)

Rodent Operator:

A. FROST.

Clerical Staff:

Medical Officer of Health's Secretary:

Miss J. M. EGLON.

(Miss Eglon is also responsible for the secretarial duties appertaining to the work of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Chertsey.)

Public Health Inspector's Section:

Mrs. M. E. ILKIW.

Miss B. BIRUKOWSKA. (Resigned 29.9.68.)

Mrs. T. BREEZE. (From 25.11.68.)

Public Analyst:

J. A. PALGRAVE, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,052
Estimated resident population mid-year 1968 (estimate supplied by Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,880
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,467
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,484,573
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£13,534

Vital Statistics.

Live Births:						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	352	366	718
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	28	21	49
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
						380	387	767
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.78
Rate after correction by the Registrar-General's Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.67
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.39
Stillbirths:								
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.60
						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	385	391	776
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infant Mortality Rates:								
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.25
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.11
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.41
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.04
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.43
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.91
Maternal Mortality (including abortion):								
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.29
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	562
Death-Rate (actual) per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.83
Death-Rate (after correction by the Registrar-General's Comparability Factor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.77
Natural increase of population during year by excess of births over deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Death-Rate from Influenza per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10
Death-Rate from Pneumonia per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.06
Death-Rate from Measles per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Death-Rate from Whooping Cough per 1,000 of the population	...	Nil
Death-Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population	...	0.02
Death-Rate from Cancer per 1,000 of the population	... ..	1.95
Death-Rate from Lung Cancer per 1,000 of the population	... ..	0.48
Death-Rate from Heart Disease per 1,000 of the population	... ..	3.32
Death-Rate from Bronchitis and Emphysema	... ..	0.46
Death-Rate from Motor Vehicle Accidents	... ..	0.06

The following table shows the birth and death rate per 1,000 of the population of the District, and England and Wales, for 1967 and 1968.

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Population				Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births		Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births	
	Birth-Rate		Death-Rate					
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967
Walton and Weybridge U.D.	* 15·67	* 16·27	* 8·77	* 8·16	18·25	13·99	1·29	0·00
England and Wales † ...	16·9	17·2	11·9	11·2	18·0	18·3	0·24	0·20

* After correction by Registrar-General's Comparability Factor.
† Provisional figures.

Ratio of corrected birth-rate to national rate	...	...	...	0.93
Ratio of corrected death-rate to national rate	...	...	...	0.74

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	
Syphilis and its sequelae ...	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M F	7 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	5 3	
Malignant Neoplasm — Lung, Bronchus	M F	15 10	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	6 4	— —	4 4	4 2	
Malignant Neoplasm — Breast	M F	— 12	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	— 3	
Malignant Neoplasm — Uterus	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Leukaemia	M F	3 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M F	23 29	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	6 1	6 4	3 10	7 12	
Benign and Unspecified Neo- plasms	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	
Anaemias	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	
Other Diseases of Blood, etc. ...	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	
Mental Disorders	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
Meningitis	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M F	5 9	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— 1	— —	2 1	— 2	1 5	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M F	3 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 2	1 —	— 1	—
Hypertensive Disease	M F	6 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— 2	5 4	—
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M F	69 60	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 —	19 6	19 15	26 39	—
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M F	8 17	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	1 1	3 5	2 11	—
Cerebrovascular Disease	M F	20 64	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	4 3	10 11	6 48	—
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M F	9 16	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	1 2	4 2	4 11	—
Influenza	M F	2 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 3	—
Pneumonia	M F	18 37	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	2 1	3 2	12 31	—
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M F	13 11	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 1	5 2	5 8	—
Asthma	M F	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— 1	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M F	1 4	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— 4	—
Peptic Ulcer	M F	2 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— 1	1 1	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M F	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Anomalies ...	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	M	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents ...	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other External Causes ...	M	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	M	229	4	1	—	—	4	3	4	19	49	60	85	—
	F	333	6	3	—	—	2	3	4	10	31	61	213	—

GERIATRIC SERVICES AND THE CARE OF THE CHRONIC SICK.

Services for the chronic sick are provided at Ellesmere, Ottershaw and Northcroft Hospitals. Staffing of these hospitals, particularly at week-ends, still presents a problem.

At the Annual Meeting of Walton and Weybridge Old People's Welfare Committee Mr. E. J. Evans was elected Chairman in place of the Rev. W. J. Robson who has moved to Kent.

The number of elderly on the register is approximately 1,970 and from this a further register of "At risk" has been compiled. These are old people living alone and at present total 146.

The good work at Day Centres and Clubs has continued. Thought is being given to the provision of purpose built day centres with cooking facilities sufficient to take on a meals-on-wheels service.

The provision of housing for the elderly has formed a vital part of the Council's schemes. Work was well advanced on the Terrace Road Site, Walton-on-Thames, by the end of the year, whilst the St. Catherine's scheme at Weybridge was due to commence in 1969. A further scheme is planned at St. Mary's Road, Oatlands.

The Whiteley Village Homes Trust has been proceeding with the modernisation of their 259 cottages. It is anticipated this work will be completed in 1970.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

The following tables show the number of immunisations and vaccinations given during the year.

Diphtheria.

	1968	1967	<i>Year of birth</i>			<i>Others under age 16</i>	<i>Total</i>
			1966	1965	1961-64		
Primary Injections	254	366	14	7	18	3	662
Reinforcing Injections	—	114	368	39	620	216	1,357

Whooping Cough.

	1968	<i>Year of Birth</i>				<i>Others under age 16</i>	<i>Total</i>
		1967	1966	1965	1961-64		
Primary Injections	251	363	13	7	10	—	644
Reinforcing Injections	—	106	340	32	134	31	643

Tetanus.

	1968	<i>Year of Birth</i>				<i>Others under age 16</i>	<i>Total</i>
		1967	1966	1965	1961-64		
Primary Injections	254	366	14	7	20	24	685
Reinforcing Injections	—	116	368	41	622	256	1,403

Poliomyelitis.

	1968	<i>Year of Birth</i>				<i>Others under age 16</i>	<i>16 yrs. and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
		1967	1966	1965	1961-64			
Primary Course	236	377	22	11	21	13	28	708
Reinforcing Doses	—	109	308	28	552	93	16	1,106

Smallpox

	<i>Age at Vaccination</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-3 mths.</i>	<i>3-6 mths.</i>	<i>6-9 mths.</i>	<i>9-12 mths.</i>	<i>1 yr.</i>	<i>2-4 yrs.</i>	<i>5-15 yrs.</i>	
Primary Vaccination	1	3	7	6	374	160	40	591
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	—	12	152	164

Measles

	Year of Birth					Others	Total
	1968	1967	1966	1965	1961-64	under age 16	
Primary Course	7	139	173	148	404	20	891

Notifiable Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning.

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Acute Encephalitis	—
Acute Meningitis	1
*Acute Influenzal and Primary Pneumonia ...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Anthrax	—
Cholera	—
Diphtheria	—
Dysentery	10
*Erysipelas	3
Food Poisoning	16
§Infective Jaundice	2
Leprosy	—
†Leptospirosis	—
Malaria	—
Measles	46
*Membranous Croup	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Plague	—
*Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Relapsing Fever	—
Scarlet Fever	4
Smallpox	—
†Tetanus	—
Tuberculosis	10
Typhoid Fever	2
Typhus	—
Whooping Cough	—
†Yellow Fever	—

* Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.
§ Notifiable from 15.6.68.
† Notifiable from 1.10.68.

**Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) and
Food Poisoning.**
Age Incidence.

AGE	Acute Meningitis	Acute Influenzal and Primary Pneumonia*	Dysentery	Erysipelas*	Infective Jaundice†	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
1–2 years	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
2–3 years	1	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
3–4 years	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1
4–5 years	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	—	—
5–10 years	—	—	3	—	1	21	2	2	1
10–15 years	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
15–25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
25–35 years	—	1	4	—	—	2	—	—	3
35–45 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
45–65 years	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	4
65 years and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	2	10	3	2	46	4	2	16

* Ceased to be notifiable from 1.10.68.

† Notifiable from 15.6.68.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The following cases occurred in County Schools:—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chickenpox ...	36	38	39	9	43	18	16	—	—	1	22	—
Mumps ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
German Measles	2	—	7	15	31	5	28	—	—	1	—	—

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55-65 years ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	1	1	—	—	1	—

Cases added to register during year:

New cases ...	...	...	...	...	10
Transfer into district ...	...	...	...	...	5
Cases removed from register during year ...	...	...	...	...	44

Total on register at end of year:

Pulmonary—Males ...	...	...	...	...	107
Females ...	...	...	...	...	84
Non-Pulmonary—Males ...	...	...	...	...	6
Females ...	...	...	...	...	6
Net decrease for year ...	...	...	...	...	29

The number of new cases of tuberculosis was ten, this showing an increase of seven on the figure of the previous year.

Mass Radiography Service.

Two separate services are operated : —

1.—General Practitioner Chest X-ray Service.

This Unit visits Walton-on-Thames weekly, primarily to examine patients referred for chest X-ray by their own doctors. 1,270 patients attended.

2.—Normal Mass Radiography Service.

This covers the examination of the general public and organised groups of factory and office workers. 2,817 examinations were carried out.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The number of school children presenting themselves for B.C.G. vaccination remained satisfactory. The number of positive reactors is now very low and is a healthy sign.

Secondary and Grammar Schools:

No. in age group ...	...	...	...	...	628
No. of consents ...	...	...	...	...	518
No. tested ...	...	...	...	...	471
No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	433
Percentage of age group vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	69
Percentage tested and found to be positive ...	...	...	...	...	4
Percentage tested and found to be negative ...	...	...	...	...	96

Late Consents and School Leavers who did not accept at 13 years:

No. of consents ...	...	...	...	...	51
No. tested ...	...	...	...	...	32
No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	23
Percentage tested and found to be positive ...	...	...	...	...	6
Percentage tested and found to be negative ...	...	...	...	...	94

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Water is supplied by the Woking and District Water Company and has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Four samples were taken by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal and Sciver and all were satisfactory. The Woking and District Water Company regularly took samples throughout the District and additional samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors and submitted to the Guildford Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results.

16,461 dwelling houses with an approximate population of 51,609 have a direct mains water supply and there are still six permanent dwellings housing thirteen persons supplied by standpipes. In addition, two caravan sites with a population of approximately 258 also derive their water supplies from standpipes.

All the standpipes are connected to the main supply and samples taken were satisfactory. One business premises is supplied by a well. Piped water into each home should be the aim of every Public Health Department and, even in the case of caravans, there are good reasons for having an internal supply.

The total number of samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors was 55.

Sewage Disposal.

Most of the necessary details regarding the new Sewage Works at the Seven Arches Bridge Site have been agreed with the Minister of Housing and Local Government and detailed design work is now being carried out by the Council's Consultant. It is hoped to go out to contract early in 1970 and to start the work during the late summer of that year. Construction will take about twenty-one months. It has been scheduled to start the rebuilding of the railway bridge on the access road to the site in November, 1969.

Summary of Analysis of Samples of Water taken from the supply of the Woking and District Water Company in the Walton and Weybridge District.

Date sample was taken ...	27th Feb.	7th May	25th July	4th Nov.
Organisms per ml. at 20°C in 72 hours on agar ...	9	17	6	4
Organisms per ml. at 20°C in 72 hours on gelatine ...	3	4	1	2
Organisms per ml. at 37.5°C in 48 hours on agar ...	21	12	12	2
Coliform organisms ...	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1
Faecal Coli ...	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1	Less than 1

Chemical Examination in parts per million.

Free Ammonia ...	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.24
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.132	0.032	0.19	0.45
Oxygen consumed from per- manganate (4 hrs. at 80°C)	0.89	1.12	2.66	1.95

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mr. F. Hulme, Public Cleansing Officer, has kindly supplied the following information: —

Refuse and Salvage Collection.

Despite increasing labour difficulties, a weekly collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year, with food shops and hospitals receiving at least two collections per week. There was a period of three weeks when part of the district was not dealt with weekly, this being immediately after the abandonment of an Incentive Bonus Scheme which had been introduced.

Hot ashes in dustbins still cause trouble in the refuse collection vehicles, and in the specialised rear loading hopper vehicles now used, a fire is not immediately noticed. There have still been no fires in vehicles in parts of the district where paper sacks are used.

The development of the paper sack system has continued, and about 75 per cent of the district is now covered.

Refuse Disposal.

This is carried out on controlled tipping lines at a site in Weybridge to provide school playing fields, and at the Walton tip for use as playing fields and public open space.

Cesspool Emptying.

Last year I was able to report that the need for this service had slightly contracted, but the number of loads of emptyings this year has been increased, this being the result of the floods in the Field Common and Esher Road areas necessitating more frequent emptyings last Autumn.

In addition to this emptying of cesspools, the figures do not include the first weekend after the floods, when our vehicle, with four other hired vehicles, worked three days over the weekend transporting trapped water, and I estimate that over 400,000 gallons of trapped water was removed.

Car Disposal Scheme.

This scheme continues to be widely used, and the number of cars dealt with was slightly in excess of the number in 1967.

Staff.

Recruitment of satisfactory labour is still difficult, but we have been able to find replacements for men leaving or retiring. Students were again a great help in the Summer months in maintaining our weekly collection record.

Employees of the department were issued with suits of overalls, gloves, and protective clothing against cold and wet weather.

Statistics.

Refuse and salvage collected and disposed of	...	16.494 tons
Tonnage per working day	... ..	62.8 tons

Salvage Receipts.

	Tons	£
Wastepaper	156	1,296
Sale of Scrap Metal	126	704
	<hr/> 282	<hr/> 2,000

Cesspool Emptying.

Number of premises where cesspools are emptied	...	221
Number of cesspool emptyings	... ..	1,612
Number of loads	... ..	4,010
Total volume removed in gallons	... ..	4,010,000

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the public health inspectors during 1968.

Although the figures which follow cover the full calendar year, my participation in the work of the Department did not begin until 1st April when I commenced my duties.

The year was notable for the changes in staff which occurred and the changes in administration which were introduced. Soon after my appointment, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. H. Harris, who had served the Council for some 21 years, announced his intention of retiring in August, and in September, Miss B. Birukowska, shorthand typist/clerk, left to take up another post. In October, the establishment was increased by the appointment of an authorised Meat Inspector and a second Student Public Health Inspector commenced in November. The range of the Department's activities was increased and, by the end of the year, a more settled but busier administration was emerging.

The field of environmental public health is wide and ever expanding. Although the prevention of unhealthy conditions in the various aspects of the environment is still one of the basic functions of the public health inspector, it is now recognised that the more positive role of promoting healthy surroundings and conditions which are conducive to physical well being must also be pursued. This involves the staff in education, propaganda and similar time-consuming activities but such time is well spent and is essential to any progressive public health department.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Council and Public Health Committee for their support and my thanks to Dr. Hamilton for his advice, particularly during the early part of my service with the Council. Finally, I would like to record my appreciation of the help and forbearance of the public health department staff during a somewhat difficult year.

S. A. EADE,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouse and Meat Depot.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the District situated at Berry Lane, Hersham. Adjacent to the slaughterhouse is a meat depot which is owned and operated by the same firm of wholesale butchers. This meat depot receives into its cold stores large consignments of imported meat together with some of the carcasses from the slaughterhouse pending distribution to about 300 retail outlets in the South of England.

During the year inspections of both the slaughterhouse and meat depot revealed numerous deficiencies under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and the Food Hygiene (Slaughterhouse) Regulations, 1958. The owners were required to carry out extensive works to bring the premises up to an acceptable standard and, in the case of the slaughterhouse, these were completed before the end of the year. The work at the meat depot was nearing completion. The premises are, however, very old and leave much to be desired in design and construction. There are many dwellings close to the boundary of the site and access for delivery vehicles is very difficult. On grounds of hygiene and planning it is desirable that a new building should be erected on a suitable site. The owners are aware of the deficiencies and limitations of the present buildings and, as they are anxious to extend their business, are actively seeking an alternative site on which new buildings could be erected.

Meat Inspection.

Only pigs, sheep and calves are slaughtered at the slaughterhouse and killing is normally restricted to Monday to Friday. During the year all carcasses and offal were inspected but it was not always possible to fully implement the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, until the appointment of a wholetime authorised Meat Inspector in October. Charges for meat inspection during the year amounted to £1,296 4s. 0d. The table which follows shows the total number of animals inspected and condemnations made during 1968. The total weight of all meat condemned at the slaughterhouse as unfit for human consumption was 12 tons 9 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	99	9,818	27,921
Number inspected	99	9,818	27,921
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:			
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	21	108
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	280	2,610
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	6.06%	3.06%	9.73%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:			
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	0.22%

Condemnations.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

In pigs, multiple abscesses and arthritis were the main causes of condemnations of whole carcasses whilst localised abscesses, parasitic infections, pneumonia and pleurisy accounted for most of the part carcasses and offal. Bruising, arthritis and parasitic infections were the predominant causes of condemnation in sheep and lambs.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Only one pig carcase was found to be affected with Generalised Tuberculosis. The percentage of pigs killed affected with Tuberculosis was about the same as in previous years.

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned, Other Than at Slaughterhouse.

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat at wholesale premises	1	17	87
Meat at retail shops	—	13	82 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cooked meat and meat products ...	—	—	61 $\frac{1}{4}$

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned meats	...	...	...	—	9	99
Other canned foods	...	...	...	2	6	70
Fish (fresh)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Fruit and vegetables (fresh)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Foods	...	...	...	—	5	58 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscellaneous foods due to						
(i) refrigerator breakdowns	...	...	...	1	18	25 $\frac{3}{4}$
(ii) floods	...	...	...	3	17	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total ...				11	9	109

Investigation into the Efficiency of Cleansing Processes in Kitchens.

During the year investigations were commenced into the efficiency of cleansing processes in kitchens using the Agaroid technique. The Agaroid is a sausage shaped piece of agar culture medium suitable for growing bacteria. The method consists of pressing the end of the agar against the surface of a utensil or piece of equipment so that any bacteria present will adhere to the media. A thin slice of agar is then excised and placed in a Petri dish and the process repeated with other surfaces. After incubation at blood heat the colonies grown from the bacteria can be counted and an assessment made of the efficiency of the cleansing process.

The method has great value in securing improved techniques and in demonstrating to food workers the efficiency or inefficiency of their methods.

Ten investigations were carried out during the year, all at school kitchens. The results indicate that the general standard in school kitchens is of a high order but that improvements could be made in the cleansing of utensils and equipment used specifically for the preparation and serving of food. Although considerable care is taken to sterilise the crockery and cutlery used in the dining rooms, kitchen utensils and equipment are generally subjected only to a detergent wash in a single sink. Better results could be obtained by using a bactericidal agent in addition to a detergent. Results of the investigations have been sent to the Education Authorities, who are giving the matter consideration.

Sampling of Food for Bacteriological Examination.

There are no statutory bacteriological standards for foods other than milk. This is largely because there is divided opinion as to the necessity for such standards and because, if standards were produced, there might be difficulty in applying and enforcing them. Nevertheless, all the large manufacturers of perishable foods use bacteriological examination as a means of quality control. A few of the more progressive authorities submit samples for full bacteriological examination in order to make an assessment of the bacteriological condition of a commodity at the time of sale and to use the results to educate food manufacturers or retailers into using better techniques. The method has been used successfully in connection with the sale of cooked meats, cream filled pastries and similar products which are very susceptible to contamination and are not legally required to be displayed at refrigeration temperatures. Sampling was commenced in the District during the year and useful work was done in butchers' shops where the potential for cross contamination with dangerous organisms is particularly high.

				<i>No. of</i>		
				<i>Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Ham	...	...	...	4	1	3
Brawn	...	...	...	2	1	1
Tongue	...	...	...	1	—	1
Corned Beef	...	...	...	3	1	2
Chopped Pork	...	...	...	1	—	1
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	1	1	—
Pheasant Pâté	...	...	...	1	1	—
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cream Filled Pastries	...	...	...	2	2	—
				—	—	—
				16	7	9
				—	—	—

Ice-Cream.

One hundred and eight samples of ice-cream and two ice lollies were taken during the year. Eleven samples of ice-cream were reported as unsatisfactory. This does not mean that the fault is necessarily with the manufacturer. Frequently, investigations of unsatisfactory results revealed that retailers were not taking sufficient care in dispensing ice-cream from machines or scoops. The retailer who deals in loose ice-cream has a considerable responsibility in the

cleansing and sterilisation of his equipment and frequently it is found that for reasons of staff shortage or pressure of work, insufficient care is taken. The manufacturers are at great pains to advise retailers on satisfactory techniques and it is unfortunate that not all of them follow the advice. It should also be pointed out that an unsatisfactory result does not necessarily mean that the ice-cream is unfit or unsafe to eat. It merely indicates that at some stage in production, storage, or retailing, a fault has taken place.

For many years ice-cream has been one of the safest foods but, like milk, its potential for the spread of disease is considerable and constant vigilance is necessary on the part of the Public Health Inspectorate.

	<i>Number of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
		<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
Soft Ice Cream	22	21	1	—	—
Other Ice Cream	86	62	13	10	1
Ice Lolly	2		2		—

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Sale , etc., of Ice-cream ...	...	...	...	120
Manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Food ...				43

Inspection of Food Premises.

The standards of hygiene achieved in food premises in any district are extremely variable.

Some employers are well aware of their responsibilities under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and need no reminders from the Public Health Inspectorate. Their staff are well trained and have the supervision and backing of an efficient central administration. In the majority of cases, however, persons employed in food premises have had no specific training in food hygiene and often the intervention of the public health inspector is necessary to require that unsatisfactory conditions are remedied. Indeed, it can be said that the general standard of hygiene in food premises in a district is a reflection of the quality of inspection and the attention given to the subject by the public health department.

During the year a survey of all food premises in the District was commenced with a view to raising the general standards of hygiene. The following tables show the number of food premises in the District and the work carried out by Public Health Inspectors.

The distribution of retail food premises is as follows: —

<i>Type</i>						<i>Number</i>
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	29
Fishmongers and Fishfryers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	36
Grocers and Provision Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	64
Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	123
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	35
Sugar Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	52
Wholesale premises comprise: —						
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wholesale Meat Depots	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausage Maker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provision Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dried foods packer	...	...	...	...	...	1

Although it is clear that the majority of food premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, where applicable, precise figures cannot be given until the survey of all food premises currently being carried out has been completed.

Summary of Visits made to Food Premises.

Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	641
Butchers' shops and meat depots	...	...	...	...	...	98
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	500
Food premises (Food Inspection)	...	...	...	...	...	131
Food Complaints Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	141
Food and Drugs Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	51
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	38
Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	69
Ice-Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	95
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	61
Miscellaneous Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	25

Milk.

The Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence issued in respect of a dairy farm was cancelled early in the year following the sale of the business and there are now no bottling establishments in the district.

Although nine dealers are licensed to sell “untreated” milk, public demand during the year was nil and all milk distributed in the District was heat treated. That is to say it was sold under the designation “Pasteurised”, “Sterilised” or “Ultra Heat Treated”. The latter process is a form of sterilisation which leaves the milk similar in taste and appearance to pasteurised milk but with considerably enhanced keeping qualities.

A total of 75 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to tests for keeping quality and adequate heat treatment. Only one sample taken from a general stores failed the test for keeping quality.

			<i>Number of</i>		
			<i>Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	...	...	58	57	1*
Sterilised	...	...	13	13	—
Ultra-heat treated	...	...	4	4	—

* Failed Methylene Blue Test.

Distributors.

Number of Distributors registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959	42
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Special Designation Licences.

Untreated	9
Pasteurised	30
Sterilised	19
Ultra Heat Treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

Food and Drugs.

ANALYSIS

During the year 118 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination as follows:—

	<i>Number of Samples</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Samples adulterated or otherwise irregular</i>
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>		
FOOD.				
*Milk and Milk Products ...	11	14	25	3
Meat and Meat Products ...	8	10	18	—
Flavourings and Colourings ...	—	8	8	—
Drinks ...	3	6	9	—
*Other Foods ...	—	31	31	2
DRUGS AND MEDICINES.	8	19	27	1

* Includes samples taken as result of complaints.

Details of the unsatisfactory samples are as follows:—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Cherry Cough Linctus	Labelling infringement.	A minor matter. Agreed with manufacturer that amended label would be used.
Ice-lolly.	Contained refrigeration brine.	Purchased by small child. Unsuitable for prosecution.
Ice-lolly (Orange flavour).	Cola flavoured.	Wrong flavour, mistakenly supplied. Warning letter sent.
Milk.	Contained foreign matter.	Chalk-like deposit in bottle. Origin uncertain.
Milk.	Contained Rayon Fibres.	Evidence unsatisfactory for prosecution.
Milk.	Iron marks on inside of bottle.	Iron probably incorporated in moulding of glass. Milk unaffected.

COMPLAINTS

A total of sixty-one complaints were received during the year about food which was found to contain foreign matter or to be mouldy or out of condition following purchase. All complaints were fully investigated and whilst some were trivial, the majority were found to be justified. Complaints about mould and staleness were usually attributable to failure on the part of the retailer to properly rotate his stock and, in some instances, articles of food were very much overage. For various reasons, however, only a few cases were suitable for prosecution. It is important that members of the public who wish to complain, should get in touch with the public health department as soon as possible after purchase.

Proceedings under Section 2.

Four cases were heard before the Walton and Esher Magistrates' Court during 1968:—

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>					
	<i>Fine</i>			<i>Costs</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of mouldy apple pie	25	0	0	3	3	0
Sale of $\frac{1}{3}$ pint bottle of milk containing a piece of solid matter ...	10	0	0			
Sale of mouldy currant bread ...	10	0	0			
Sale of mouldy beefsteak and kidney pie	25	0	0	2	2	0

Pesticide Residues.

The Interim Report on Pesticide Residues in Foodstuffs prepared by the Association of Public Analysts was issued during the year. It covers samples taken during the period August 1966 - July 1967. The Department co-operated in the survey which led to the report by taking samples of nominated foodstuffs.

The Report shows that traces of residues of pesticides were present in a significant number of samples of food examined and that in general, the amounts found corresponded with the known use of pesticides upon certain crops.

It is reassuring to know that, according to our present state of knowledge, there would appear to be no short-term hazard associated with the amounts found, but one wonders what the long term effect might be.

Health Education.

The value of education as a means for securing advancement in the field of environmental health cannot be overstressed and yet few local authorities seriously concern themselves with it. Some take the view that education is not their responsibility and it is true that there is no legal obligation on them to enter this field. It should be clear, however, to even the newest student of Public Health that an educated public can greatly assist in attaining better standards of cleanliness and hygiene and ultimately a better standard of living. The case is obvious in regard to food hygiene. Educated food handlers will mean higher standards of cleanliness, less necessity for intervention and ultimately less illness caused by food poisoning or food borne organisms. In some other spheres the case is not so clear and there is scope for propaganda directed at the public. An interested and informed public is essential to advancement in the field of environmental health.

The Public Health Inspector is in a position to pursue a policy of education almost daily and each visit to a food kitchen or shop can be used for the purpose of imparting knowledge to food handlers. But this not enough and more must be done. During the year a start was made in the health education field. As reported elsewhere, investigations into the efficiency of cleansing processes in kitchens and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination were commenced. All food retailers were circulated about the handling of cooked meats, sausages and pies. Posters were displayed throughout the district and various other forms of literature distributed including copies of the

Food Hygiene Regulations in Chinese to all the restaurants employing Chinese staff. Talks were given to school children and students. During 1969 it is hoped to run a series of lectures on food hygiene.

Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurising plants in the district.

HOUSING

(a) Unfit Houses.

There are no slums in Walton and Weybridge. There are, however, a number of houses unfit for human habitation which have reached the end of their useful life.

During the year a survey was made of such properties and a list prepared, which will form the basis of the clearance programme. The list is not necessarily comprehensive and unfit properties are added as and when they come to the notice of the Department. Houses rendered fit are, of course, removed from the list.

Persons who are considering the purchase of old properties and who consult the Department are given full information of proposals and the fact that a property is on the list is always divulged on Land Charge Inquiries. In this way it is hoped to avoid disappointments which could arise if the information given was limited to those houses already included in Orders.

An inquiry was held during the year as a result of appeals against the Clearance Order in respect of Nos. 1-5, Flintans Cottages, Church Walk, Weybridge. The Order was confirmed.

The White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes" was published during the year and caused the Public Health Committee to postpone consideration of a proposed Clearance Area for 14 houses, 4 of which are owner-occupied.

It is hoped that the proposals contained in the White Paper, which include market value for owner-occupiers, will become law in 1969.

Complaints about housing defects	...	...	...	65
Informal notices served	...	...	...	47
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	5
Houses where defects remedied	...	...	...	38
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	3
Closing Orders made and Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	4
Clearance Orders made	...	...	...	—
Clearance Orders confirmed	...	...	...	1
Clearance Orders awaiting confirmation	...	...	...	—
Houses demolished	...	...	...	2
Houses subject to clearance or demolition orders awaiting demolition at 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	19

(b) Improvement.

Only one representation was received under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964. It is surprising that this section which gives power

to a tenant to initiate action for providing his house with modern amenities is not used more. The likely explanation is that most tenants are not aware of the Section.

Slow progress was made with the Russell Road Improvement Area and at the end of the year a total of 6 houses had been improved.

Although the Department is not responsible for dealing with Improvement Grant applications, the Public Health Inspectors are consulted on the suitability of a property for grant purposes and the defects which require to be remedied to put it into a fit state for human habitation. The Department also comments on the repair and condition of properties for which a Council loan is being sought.

Housing improvement, housing repair and clearance are very closely linked and the new drive on old houses which the White Paper envisages, will make it necessary for consideration to be given to the best method of dealing with the problem.

(a) RUSSELL ROAD IMPROVEMENT AREA.

Undertakings to improve accepted	...	...	2
Houses where improvements completed	...	...	4
Houses where improvements in progress at			
31st December, 1968	...	...	1

(b) DWELLINGS OUTSIDE IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

Representations received under Section 19	...	1
Preliminary Notices served	...	2
Undertakings to improve accepted	...	2
Houses where improvements completed	...	8
Houses where improvements in progress at		
31st December, 1968	...	1

(c) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

				<i>Standard</i>	<i>Discre-</i>
					<i>tionary</i>
Applications received	...	...	...	37	120
Applications approved	...	...	...	37	120
Applications refused	...	...	...	—	—

(c) Multiple Occupation.

Multiple occupation is not a serious problem in Walton and Weybridge but, because of the proximity of London and the number of large old houses in the District, it is likely to increase. A number of houses in multiple occupation were inspected during the year but it

is clear that there are many houses of this type which are unknown to the Department. It is intended to give more attention to this matter during 1969.

(d) Council Housing.

The Council owns 2,591 houses and flats, 585 of which were built before the war. 78 houses and flats were built during 1968 and a further 159 were in the course of erection.

334 houses and flats were built by private enterprise during the year. 223 family units were rehoused, including 51 exchanges from houses of a size unsuited to the occupants.

The number of applicants on the Council's list at the end of the year was 442.

Summary of all visits made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with housing.

Clearance, Repairs and Housing Loans	...	...	925
Improvements	...	...	75
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	36
Overcrowding	...	...	6

Rent Act, 1957.

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	1
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates of Disrepair	—	
Number of decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair in respect of all defects	...	1
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	1

WORKPLACES

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

REGISTRATION.

Although there were 51 new registrations during 1968 the total number of registered premises at the end of the year was exactly the same as at the end of 1967. The number of premises receiving a first inspection and the total number of visits to premises were the highest for any year since the Act came into force reflecting the increased attention given to this important aspect of environmental health.

				<i>First Inspections</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
1968	...	...	...	111	436
1967	...	...	...	68	308
1966	...	...	...	65	188
1965	...	...	...	88	211
1964	...	...	...	7	33

Nevertheless, at the end of 1968, there were 235 premises on the register which had not received a first inspection. It would appear that failure to complete first inspections within the first five years of the operation of the Act has been largely due to insufficient staff and the demands of other important spheres of environmental health. The importance of the early completion of first inspections is however fully realised and changes in staff which have taken place in the past year should enable the work to be done during 1969.

CONTRAVENTIONS.

191 contraventions of the Act were noted on inspection and required to be remedied. In no case was legal action necessary to secure compliance. Most of the contraventions concerned the failure to provide information regarding the Act to employees, the provision of first aid facilities and thermometers, failure to register premises and failure to maintain floors, passages and stairs free from obstruction.

ACCIDENTS.

Only 8 accidents were reported during 1968 and in each case an investigation was carried out. The total number of accidents in relation to the 4,369 persons employed in registered premises represents an extremely low rate and is difficult to accept. It seems likely that many accidents are not notified, possibly because the persons concerned are not fully aware of the provisions of the Act in this respect, or are not bothering to send in notifications.

One fatal accident occurred when a man who was sorting bricks for loading from a stack on the edge of a wharf on the River Wey, fell into the water and was drowned. The accident revealed a possible deficiency in the Act, in that there are no specific provisions requiring guard rails to be provided in such situations. It was considered, however, that the absence of a guard rail gave rise to conditions which might be dealt with under Section 22(a) of the Act and the firm concerned ultimately agreed to provide a proper guard rail together with a life belt. Most of the other accidents were associated with knives in butchers' shops.

Registrations and General Inspections.

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	17	168	44
Retail Shops	29	307	65
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	2	8	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	35	2
Fuel storage depots	2	3	—
Totals	51	521	111

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to
Registered Premises under the Act 436

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises at end of year.

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>Number of persons employed</i>
Offices	2,112
Retail Shops	1,802
Wholesale departments, warehouse	102
Catering establishments open to the public	274
Canteens	64
Fuel storage depots	15
Total	4,369
Total Males	1,991
Total Females	2,378

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section		Number of Contraventions found				
4	Cleanliness ...	...	...	...	...	16
5	Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	—
6	Temperature ...	...	...	...	...	22
7	Ventilation ...	...	...	...	...	5
8	Lighting ...	...	...	...	...	8
9	Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	7
10	Washing facilities ...	...	...	...	...	8
11	Supply of drinking water	...	...	...	...	1
12	Clothing accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
13	Sitting facilities ...	...	...	...	...	1
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	...	...	...	...	—
15	Eating facilities ...	...	...	...	...	—
16	Floors, passage and stairs	...	...	...	...	21
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	...	...	...	...	5
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	—
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	...	...	...	...	—
24	First Aid ...	...	...	...	...	28
	Other matters	...	...	...	...	68
TOTAL						191

Number of informal notices sent to occupiers of premises 70

Shops Act, 1950.

This Act deals with hours of closing, conditions of employment and Sunday trading in shops. During the year, complaints were received about several hairdressers in the District opening their premises six full days a week in contravention of the legislation. The matter was dealt with by sending a letter to all hairdressers acquainting them with the requirements of the Act in regard to early closing and requesting compliance.

Several inquiries were received about closing hours, and about hours of employment of young persons.

A total of 13 inspections were made under the Act.

Factories Act, 1961.

1.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies	203	16	4	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	33	9	3	—
TOTAL ...	236	25	7	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)	5	2	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	10	5	—	3	—

3.—Outwork (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work	Section 134			Section 133		
	Outworkers Lists			No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
	No. of out-workers in August list	No. of cases of default in submitting list	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to submit lists			
Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	13	—	—	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Drainage and Sewerage.

The majority of complaints received by the Department about drainage are made as a result of obstructions. These blockages may be caused by misuse or, as is usually the case, by defects associated with old drainage. The surcharge of drains and sewers at times of heavy rain also plays a part.

The law relating to sewers and drains is complicated. In some instances the drains, although on private property, are vested in the Council who are responsible for cleansing them but can recharge any expenses incurred on repairs or improvements. In other cases, the responsibility lies with the owner who must himself make arrangements for the drains to be cleared. Often there is inadequate access and, because of this, builders are sometimes unwilling to undertake what would normally be a relatively simple job. The Public Health Inspectors are always willing to advise and assist where possible and are themselves given summary legal powers to deal with urgent matters. Nevertheless there are times when the existence of a system whereby the Council could undertake work on payment would be of great benefit.

During 1968 the total number of visits in connection with drainage defects was 729.

Pail Closets.

There are 71 pail closets within the District, the majority of which are situated in the Field Common area, and the proposed development of this area will mean that main drainage will be available to all properties in the future.

In addition there is one situated in business premises, one in a riverside residence, used at weekends only, and in one further instance in another riverside house permanently occupied by the owner. In each instance the Council undertakes the emptying when necessary.

The existence of pail closets is an undesirable feature and where possible, all efforts should be made to connect properties to main drainage.

Swimming Pools.

There are eight swimming pools in the District to which the general public or a restricted section of the public have access.

During the year twenty-eight samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Five samples were reported unsatisfactory. In addition, spot checks on the concentration of free chlorine and pH value of the water are carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

High standards of water purity and general cleanliness are maintained at the Council's modern, indoor pool where the break-point system of chlorination is used and qualified staff are always in attendance.

The other pools, which with one exception are all in the open air, are situated mostly at schools. In each case marginal chlorination is employed and the unsatisfactory results were due to failure to maintain an adequate level of free chlorine in the water. A change to the break-point system would give a greater margin of safety and allow for the rapid changes in bathing load which are usual in school pools. Copies of results have been sent to the Surrey County Council and it is anticipated that during the 1969 season there will be a change to the break-point system.

Floods.

The exceptionally heavy and prolonged rainfall in September which resulted in the flooding of areas in the Urban District involved the Public Health Inspectors in a number of ways. Initially, advice was given and leaflets distributed to those affected. When the waters receded, disinfection of houses and properties affected was carried out. In this connection it was necessary to enlist the assistance of the Army and a squad of eight soldiers, acting under the Department's supervision, continued this work for two days.

Subsequently inspections were made in connection with foodstuffs damaged at retail premises by flood water and in connection with insurance claims and claims by householders for assistance from the Flood Relief Fund.

Flood water is sometimes heavily polluted with sewage matter and therefore a potential danger to public health. Although in practice the danger is seldom very great, it is necessary that the health inspectorate are especially vigilant at times of flooding.

Miscellaneous Public Health Nuisances.

Although most of a Public Health Inspector's time is spent on visiting premises for the enforcement of specific Acts or Regulations, a

percentage is taken up by miscellaneous works arising from complaints by residents or from personal observations.

The investigation of complaints of smells arising within the house, or from factories, stagnant waters, farms and accumulations of refuse take up much valuable time, and often a solution is not easily achieved. Complaints of dirty houses which are sometimes received are usually associated with old people incapable of looking after themselves in a satisfactory manner. The Welfare Officers have considerable difficulty in dealing with such people and often a joint approach with the Public Health Inspector is the only way of achieving success.

The Civic Amenities Act, 1967, was intended to make it easier for individuals to dispose of unwanted refuse but much indiscriminate dumping still takes place and complaints are made to the Department.

Where necessary the powers given under the Public Health Acts are invoked to require owners to remove obnoxious or offensive accumulations from their land.

In all 410 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors on miscellaneous matters.

CLEAN AIR

Twenty-eight complaints were received during the year about the emission of smoke from chimneys or from the open burning of refuse and informal action was taken in each instance. A total of 100 inspections were made.

Existing legislation is weak, however, in relation to the considerable nuisance which can be caused by the burning of rubber, bituminous felt, plastics and similar materials on bonfires. Amendments to strengthen the power of a local authority in such cases have been made in the Clean Air Act, 1968, and it is anticipated that they will be brought into operation during 1969.

It is apparent that there is a degree of smoke pollution within the district which is most noticeable during adverse weather conditions and which is largely attributable to domestic fires. Although the number of people burning coal in this district is below the national average, coal burnt on the inefficient open fire remains the greatest single source of smoke pollution. Indeed, it is now estimated that over 70 per cent of all smoke pollution is produced by the open fire.

It is proposed next year to commence the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere and the results will be

used in formulating a future smoke control policy. The introduction of smoke control areas is well advanced in most large towns and there is much merit in more urban areas following the example before any real problem exists and whilst costs of conversion are relatively low.

NOISE

Twenty-two complaints about noise were received during the year and a total of 112 inspections made. On investigation nuisances capable of being dealt with under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, were confirmed in ten cases. All nuisances were either remedied or were receiving attention at the end of the year following informal action.

The most common causes of complaint were noise from pneumatic concrete breakers and other machinery used in connection with building sites and road works, and noise from machinery on industrial premises situated in close proximity to dwelling houses.

In cases where there is noise or vibration which is a nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, allows a local authority to require that the best practicable means be taken for reducing or counteracting the effect of the noise or vibration. In the case of pneumatic concrete breakers the use of mufflers can considerably reduce the noise level without any loss of performance and in this District contractors are warned that the use of pneumatic concrete breakers without mufflers may well result in legal action being taken against them.

Noise from aircraft is specifically excluded from the Act. The few complaints received in the Department during the year did not by any means represent the reaction of the public to nuisance from this source. The number of aircraft passing over the District increased following the erection of a navigational beacon at Stoke D'Abernon and, at the request of the General Purposes Committee, a series of noise level readings were taken. Although the noise levels recorded were not high in comparison with those experienced in districts nearer to London Airport, there is no doubt that many people are disturbed by this unwanted sound and that vigilance on the part of the Council is necessary to combat any proposals for alterations in flight paths which would result in increased disturbance.

PEST CONTROL

The Council operate a free service for the destruction of rats and mice on domestic premises and a service at cost to business premises.

There were no major infestations in the District during the year under review. A test bait of approximately 10 per cent of the sewer manholes in the area was carried out but in only one instance was evidence of infestation found.

A number of complaints were received about infestations of insects and about damage or inconvenience caused by squirrels, birds, foxes and moles.

The Department is always able to advise in such cases and, in certain circumstances, can give assistance.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

(a) *Rodent Control* (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949).

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	442
Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	673
Number found infested with rats	...	...	...	...	360
Number found infested with mice	...	...	...	...	61
Sewer manholes baited	...	...	...	...	103
Sewer manholes found infested	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	2,557

(b) *Insects and Other Pests.*

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	177
Wasps nests destroyed	...	...	...	...	36
Total number of visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	336

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There is one registered premises, a furniture factory. Two samples of prescribed filling materials, namely Woollen Mixture Felt Pad (described as Flex Felt) and New Cotton Felt, were taken and proved satisfactory.

Petroleum Storage.

Under the provisions of the Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928, the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures is subject to licence by the Council and to compliance with a safety code. The work of annual licensing and enforcement is carried out by the public health inspectorate and, in the interests of safety, a strict approach is necessary.

The licensing fees payable, which had remained unaltered since 1928, were substantially increased during the year to bring them into

line with current values. Also, a new Code of Practice for the storage of petroleum spirit was issued by the Home Office. Amongst other things the Code sets out conditions for the latest types of self-service stations, a number of which are currently proposed for the District. The effect of the new standards will not be fully realised until the licences are renewed early in 1969.

Number of licensed premises	...	...	...	71
Number of inspections	...	...	...	124

Printed by
Charles Burrell & Son
Clay Corner, Chertsey. Surrey
and at Littlehampton. Sussex